

APPROVED  
Northridge West Neighborhood Council (NWNC)  
Regular General Board Meeting via ZOOM  
Tuesday, 9 July 2024 at 6.15PM

I. Call to Order and Board Roll Call

- President Jorge Jiménez called the meeting to order at 6.20PM and welcomed nine board members and nine stakeholders.
- A quorum was declared via the following roll call:
  - Here (9)           Zaven Atashian, Kathleen Edwards, Nicolas Haddad, Kevin Herzberg, Jorge Jiménez, Janis Kraft, Joel Lowell, Angelica Robinson, and Greg Wood
  - Absent (2)        Aaminah Babatunde-Bea and Brian Cathcart
  - Resigned (2)     Arshia Malekzadeh and Brian Morgan

II. Pledge of Allegiance

- Jorge led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. General Public Comment

- First Responder John Ignatczyk from the LAFD's Valley Bureau Battalion 15 reported that record rainfall this past year caused excessive growth and we are now in a record heat wave with increased risk of fires. Currently, there are over 17 active fires with over 80,000 burnt acres.
- Today, they had a fire along the freeway, but were able to extinguish it with assistance from the LA and Ventura County Fire Departments.
- He reminded everyone to always be prepared for power outages by keeping your cellular telephones fully charged, have flashlights handy, and a plan to get out of your garage when you cannot activate your garage door opener. Also, check in with your neighbors and their pets.
- The LAFD also does a great many flyovers to stay aware of brush and structure fires.
  
- Mikkie Loi asked if dried brush in the northwest valley's parks should be reported to the LAFD or the Department of Recreation and Parks. John responded that it might be best to report to the facility manager at the Department of Recreation and Parks. The LAFD also stays alert to all area parks.
- Glenn Bailey asked about LAFD resources going towards the fires near homeless campsites.
- Kathleen expressed concern about sidewalk vendors who are cooking with open flames.
- Greg suggested moving the homeless from fire-threatened areas; this would be an issue for 311 and/or the city's Sanitation Department.
  
- Glenn Bailey mentioned that the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils, representing the valley's thirty-four neighborhood councils, would meet via Zoom on Thursday, July 11<sup>th</sup>. This month's guest speaker will be the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment's (DONE) recently appointed General Manager Carmen Chang.
- Glenn also had news regarding the upcoming mandatory training, but deferred that to the report from the NWNC's Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate (NEA) from DONE, Joel Gonzalez.
- Glenn thanked Janis for keeping the Northridge East Neighborhood Council (NENC) involved in the upcoming Art Faire.
  
- President Juanita Aynat from the Wilkinson Senior Center Advisory Board introduced herself.

IV. SPECIAL SPEAKER Karina Jimenez from Alliance for Community Empowerment (ACE) a community-based 501(c)3 non-profit, will introduce ACE’s services available to stakeholders of the San Fernando Valley.

- ACE is a non-profit offering an accredited high school education and services in the west valley. Since its inception in 2013, ACE has assisted thousands of individuals whose lives have been impacted by trauma and poverty. To support empowerment, ACE provides education, workforce development, gang intervention, and prevention programming integrated with counseling, mentoring, case management, and other support services for high risk youth, marginalized individuals, and families.
- They receive funding from Mayor Bass’s Office of Community Safety’s Gang Reduction and Youth Development (GRYD) Program.
- They recently expanded their community violence intervention program at their new facility at 8540 Reseda Boulevard (at Malden Street), suite 2F, Northridge.
- Additional information can be found on their website at <https://www.ace4change.org/>
- Mikkie Loi mentioned that she attended one of their presentations in 2016 in Canoga Park. At the time, they operated a program where kids could receive a high school diploma, rather than via a traditional high school.
- Glenn encouraged Karina to be involved with the Northridge Vision Group, who meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month. This group includes the three Northridge neighborhood councils, CD12, and business leaders.

V. Approval of NWNC Monthly GBM Minutes for June 2024

- Angelica Robinson made a motion to approve the June minutes; Joel Lowell seconded this motion, and it passed.
  - Aye (7) Atashian, Haddad, Herzberg, Jiménez, Kraft, Lowell, and Wood
  - Abstain (1) Edwards
  - Ineligible (1) Robinson
  - Absent (2) Babatunde-Bea and Cathcart

VI. Approve of NWNC Monthly Expenditure Report (MER) from June 2024

- Joel Lowell made a motion to approve the June MER; Greg Wood seconded this motion, and it passed.
  - Aye (7) Atashian, Edwards, Haddad, Jiménez, Kraft, Lowell, and Wood
  - Ineligible (2) Herzberg and Robinson
  - Absent (2) Babatunde-Bea and Cathcart

Date	Vendor	Description	Amount
May 28	Kristina Smith/The Mail Room	Office/Web Services	\$ 250.00
May 28	Kristina Smith/The Mail Room	Office Web Services	250.00
May 28	LA Congress of Neighborhood Councils	Outreach	1,000.00
May 30	LAPD Devonshire PALS	Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG)	4,500.00
May 31	Apple One	Office/Meeting Minutes	179.20
June 1	Smart and Final	Outreach	23.23
June 2	Golden State Storage	Office/Storage Facility	153.50
June 18	In Peacock Print LLC	Outreach	283.61
		Total	<u>\$6,639.54</u>

- Treasurer Joel mentioned that the LAPD Devonshire Police Activity League Supporters (PALS) \$4,500 NPG check [approved on May 14<sup>th</sup>] has not yet been cashed.

#### VII. Announcements

- a. August 6<sup>th</sup> NWNC Executive Board Meeting
  - This meeting is scheduled for the same evening as the annual National Night Out; the NWNC may hold this meeting at that event.
- b. August 13<sup>th</sup> NWNC General Board Meeting
- c. DONE Training Updates for Board Members
  - Although a brand new board member, Kevin received a notice of his training delinquency. Per the NWNC by-laws, he has until August 2<sup>nd</sup> to complete his training. Glenn mentioned that DONE has a thirty-day grace period for new board members, and rosters are updated on Mondays and Fridays.
  - Angelica and Aaminah also continue to bring their training up to date.
  - Angelica may need to reset her passcode; she may do that on Wednesday, July 10<sup>th</sup> when DONE's computer administration staff returns to the office.

#### VIII. Presidential Comments

- Jorge recently attended Mayor Bass's presentation on homelessness and reported the following statistics:
  - Homelessness is down 2.2%
  - People living on the street is down 10%
  - Make-shift encampments is down 38%
  - People moving into facilities is up 17%
- As we are all hopeful at the start a new fiscal year this month, Jorge mentioned that this past year as President of the NWNC has been truly eye opening and he is grateful for the opportunity.

#### IX. Government Reports

- a. Public Safety LAPD Devonshire Division
  - The non-emergency number for the LAPD is 1-877-ASK-LAPD.
  - Devonshire Community Relations Volunteer Mikkie Loi reported that the Devonshire Division is the number one area in the city for catalytic convert theft. Grand theft auto has also increased, especially for Kias and Hyundais.
  - She recommended that folks use the online reporting system for non-burglaries; officers must visit to complete a burglary report.
  - If someone jumps into your backyard, that is trespassing. Please report such incidents to the LAPD.
  - Tuesday, July 16<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6PM, the LAPD Valley Traffic Division will host a webinar on street racing.
  - Wednesday, July 24<sup>th</sup> the California Fish Grill will host a fundraiser for the LAPD; 25% of their proceeds will go to the LAPD's Devonshire Division.
  - Tuesday, August 6<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6PM will be the annual National Night Out. The Universal/Illumination movie Sing-2 will begin at 8PM.
  - Senior Lead Officer (SLO) Efren Corral (badge 35472) who covers the northwest corner of the valley has returned to active duty.

- Jorge asked if they could reschedule SLO Parker’s monthly meetings, which also meet on the same 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday. Mikkie replied that SLO Parker’s meetings were scheduled years before the NWNC meetings.
- b. CD12 City Council Representative
- Special Projects Deputy Jonathan Coto is the new CD12 representative who will report to the NWNC. If you have any topics to discuss, please email them before the meeting so he can research answers.
  - In April, Councilman Lee was instrumental in passing the bill that made the possession of excessive catalytic converters illegal.
  - During the first half of 2024, CD12’s Rapid Response Team retrieved 3,800 items of illegally dumped material. If you have a bulky requiring pick-up, please report to 311, use the 311 mobile app, or contact the CD12 office. Mikkie added that illegal fireworks could also be reported to the city via 311.
  - Jorge thanked Joy for mentioning the website <https://www.lacrimestoppers.org/> to report fireworks.
  - Councilman Lee has secured \$130k for the West Valley Alliance for weed abatement throughout his district. Jorge added that Devonshire Street, between Melvin and Tampa Avenues is in dire need of weed treatment.
- c. DONE
- NEA Joel Gonzales reported that the new rollover funds policy for FY2024-25 is official. Previously, neighborhood councils could rollover merely \$10k; during this fiscal year, all unused funds from FY2023-24 can be rolled over. Kathleen wondered if neighborhood councils could have the privilege of unlimited rollover funds in future years. If so, the fund’s usage could be greatly improved. She would also like to see the \$5k limit for NPGs and Community Improvement Projects increased.
  - The 2025 neighborhood council elections will be 100% vote by mail, with the NWNC’s election to be held on Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. Additional information can be found at <https://clerk.lacity.gov/clerk-services/elections/neighborhood-council-elections>
  - DONE continues to try to get everyone current on their training.
- d. Budget Advocate
- Glenn reported that the advocates share Kathleen’s concern about the availability of rollover funds in future years. When the neighborhood council system began in 1999, each council’s annual budget was \$50k. If allowed for inflation, their annual budget could be \$86k to \$120k. Now, each council’s budget is \$32k. When these historical statistics were recently presented to Mayor Bass, she mentioned that she was unfamiliar with this. Glenn recommended that neighborhood councils discuss their concerns with Mayor Bass’s office and her West Valley Representative, David Bright, who attended the June NWNC meeting.
  - For additional information on the city’s current budget, please see council file 24-0600 at [https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.view\\_record&cfnumber=24-0600](https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.view_record&cfnumber=24-0600). Next fiscal year’s council file/budget will appear as 25-0600.
  - The June 15<sup>th</sup> Budget Day had nearly 200 attendees, including DONE’s new general manager Carmen Chang, CAO Matthew Szabo, and City Controller Kenneth Mejia.
  - For those unable to attend, there is a video link at the advocate’s website at <https://www.budgetadvocates.org/budget-day-2024>.

- Following the meetings and panel discussions, the advocates hosted breakout sessions [by region] to identify city services and budget issues of concern for this fiscal year.
- The northwest valley's Region 2's budget representatives for the next two years will be:

**Neighborhood Council**

Brian Allen	Granada Hills North
Garry Fordyce	NENC
Scott Wright	Northridge South (NSNC)

- Glenn will serve as co-chair of the advocates.
- The advocates may hold their annual [possibly virtual] retreat in late August or September. If virtual, it will be recorded and posted on their website at <https://www.budgetadvocates.org/>
- In September, Mayor Bass will send out a notice to all city departments, inquiring about their budget requests for FY2025-26.

X. NWNC Committee Reports

a. Executive Committee

- Jorge mentioned that the Executive Committee recently met and discussed topics that will be discussed this evening.

b. Public Safety

- Kathleen was shocked and disturbed that some of her neighbors are victims of an evil wrongdoer. Someone has been sending letters around her neighborhood naming someone as a member of the KKK (specifically sent to black and Jewish neighbors) and a child molester (purposely sent to parents). Many of the recipients have taken these letters to the LAPD (who have referred this to the FBI). A few LAPD officers visited Kathleen's neighborhood to chat with the letter's recipients.
- If anyone else has received such letters involving this hate crime, please alert the LAPD and FBI.

c. Government Affairs

- Greg expressed concern about the Supreme Court's recent decision to ban homeless campsites and is glad that steps are being taken.
- He is also outraged about Kathleen's report of a hate crime in our community.

d. Planning and Land Use

- Brian was unavailable to attend this evening's meeting, but sent information regarding the advantages of planting trees; this information may appear on the NWNC's website.

e. Elections

- There was no report.

f. Homelessness

- Angelica had no update. During agenda item VIII, Presidential Comments, Jorge reported that homelessness has decreased.

g. Beautification

- Jorge expressed concern about fire prevention and looks forward to working alongside the West Valley Alliance, as discussed by Jonathan Coto from CD12 under Agenda item IX.b.

- Greg also expressed concern about the overgrown bushes blocking the east side of Tampa Avenue and the west side of Wilbur Avenue (north of Nordhoff Street). It is hoped they could be trimmed.
- h. Budget
- Treasurer Joel reported that the budget for the current fiscal year has been submitted; he has not received any negative feedback.
- i. Outreach
- Janis will report a few issues in agenda items Xi.b (National Night Out), XII.C (Community Art Faire), and Xii.d (promotional outreach items).
- j. Education
- Arshia was resigned; hence this agenda item was tabled.

#### XI. Old Business

- a. Discussion and possible motion to approve funding of up to \$5,000 to support Supporters of Law Enforcement in Devonshire (SOLID) NPG application for the repurposing of the former Force Open Simulator (FOS) into a new meeting room for community volunteers who serve the Devonshire police station.
- Tapio Kartiala from SOLID mentioned that the current FOS trailer is no longer needed for its original purpose of training officers. This NPG will help SOLID renovate and furnish this area to provide a meeting room for the community volunteers now serving the LAPD Devonshire Station.
  - The LAPD Devonshire Station current has about 300 community volunteers helping officers in various ways to keep the public safe. The groups are desperately in need of a specific location to conduct their scheduled meetings without conflicting with other station events. Phase One of this project would provide that. Phase Two of this project will renovate and furnish the west end of the trailer to provide a room for the Training Unit to conduct their operations. This area is in need of major renovations; the furniture is old, falling apart, and creates an undesirable workspace for the officers.
  - Last year, the NWNC contributed towards the SLO's and volunteer's other trailer.
  - Jorge reviewed the qualifications for NPGs, including non-profit 503(c)3s, etc.
  - The furniture will come from Bernards Office Furniture of Woodland Hills, which involves a six-week waiting period. Joy asked why Bernards was chosen, and if they provided a discount; Tapio replied that they gave a discount and donated several pieces.
  - This trailer was originally a donation from former Councilman Gregg Smith; as it is not city property, the city will not pay for its remodel.
  - There are nine neighborhood councils covered by the Devonshire area; NPG requests went to six of these councils. The other three councils were very generous in the prior FY2023-24, and so their funds were not requested this year.
  - Joel offered that \$10k was budgeted for NPGs in FY2024-25. The NWNC may receive more than \$6k in rollover. Upon receipt of these rollover funds, budget categories can be reallocated throughout this new fiscal year.
  - Greg Wood made a motion to approve this \$5k NPG for SOLID; Joel Lowell seconded this motion, and it passed.
- Aye (7) Atashian, Edwards, Haddad, Jiménez, Kraft, Lowell, and Wood  
Ineligible (2) Herzberg and Robinson

- Absent (2) Babatunde-Bea and Cathcart
- Tapio thanked the NWNC and immediately relayed this approval onto Captains Burns and Eppolito.

b. Discussion and confirm NWNC board member participation in National Night Out event being held at Northridge Park on Tuesday August 6<sup>th</sup> from 6PM to 8PM.

- This event is a great opportunity for everyone to interface with law enforcement, other neighborhood councils, local business, etc. Various LAPD vehicles will be on display and there may be a flyover. A large inflatable movie screen will be provided by CD12 to show the movie Sing 2 beginning at sundown at 8PM.

- The following board members volunteered to help with this event, beginning with set-up at 4PM:

Kathleen Edwards	Jorge Jiménez	Joel Lowell
Kevin Herzberg	Janis Kraft	Greg Wood

- Janis will arrange to get the NWNC-branded tablecloths from Angelica, as well as the canopy and microphones from the storage locker.
- Nic would love to participate, but regretted that he will be out of town that evening.

XII. New Business

a. Discussion and possible motion to re-elect or elect new NWNC executive officer board member appointments for fiscal year 2024-25.

- The current executive officer board members are as follows:

President	Jorge Jiménez, who creates the agendas and liaises with the city attorney's office
Vice President Administration	Kathleen Edwards
Vice President Outreach	Janis Kraft
Treasurer	Joel Lowell
Secretary	Brian Cathcart

- All board members work closely with CD12 and the city clerk's office.
- Greg recommended that this agenda item be revisited at the May 2025 meeting, immediately prior to the May 20<sup>th</sup> election. This will enable folks to think about their new role on the executive board, to be seated in July 2025.
- Kathleen Edwards made a motion for Jorge Jiménez to continue as President of the NWNC; Joel Lowell seconded this motion, and it passed.

Aye (8) Atashian, Edwards, Haddad, Herzberg, Jiménez, Kraft, Lowell, and Wood

Ineligible (1) Robinson

Absent (2) Babatunde-Bea and Cathcart

- Joel Lowell made a motion for Kathleen Edwards to continue as Vice President Administration; no second was necessary, and it passed.

Aye (8) Atashian, Edwards, Haddad, Herzberg, Jiménez, Kraft, Lowell, and Wood

Ineligible (1) Robinson

Absent (2) Babatunde-Bea and Cathcart

- Kathleen Edwards made a motion for Janis Kraft to continue as Vice President Outreach and Joel Lowell to continue as Treasurer; no second was necessary, and it passed.

Aye (8) Atashian, Edwards, Haddad, Herzberg, Jiménez, Kraft, Lowell, and Wood

Ineligible (1) Robinson

Absent (2) Babatunde-Bea and Cathcart

- The election for the secretary position was tabled, as Brian was not present.

b. Discussion and possible motion to select committee chairs for vacant committees: Elections and Education

- The Elections Committee chair should start working with their committee and the city clerk’s office in preparation for the 20 May 2025 election.
- Jorge Jiménez made a motion for himself to serve as chair of the Elections Committee, with Nic Haddad serving on the committee; no second was necessary, and it passed.

Aye (8) Atashian, Edwards, Haddad, Herzberg, Jiménez, Kraft, Lowell, and Wood  
 Ineligible (1) Robinson  
 Absent (2) Babatunde-Bea and Cathcart

c. Discussion and possible motion to create a Community Art Faire event planning committee.

- This event will be at the Northridge Park, alongside the Northridge East and South Neighborhood Councils, the Department of Recreation and Parks, and CD12. The organizers hope to invite various artists from throughout the valley. However, there is a concern about selling items on city property.
- Janis hoped to host this event on a Sunday, either October 13<sup>th</sup> or 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Kathleen mentioned that the ad hoc Planning Committee should be the Outreach Committee, which includes merely two board members. However ad hoc committees must include three-board members. She recommended having a committee meeting and inviting board members from the NENC and NSNC. The meeting attendees can volunteer to assist in any way.
- Angelica corrected her by stating that the planning committee already had four members, three board members, and one non-NWNC board member.
- Glenn added that with non-board members in attendance, the agenda must be posted three-days in advance.
- Kathleen, Jorge, and Glenn reviewed the by-laws and their relation to the Brown Act. NEA Joel Gonzalez added that ad hoc committees shall be comprised of three [or less] NWNC board members, and may include any interested stakeholder.
- Joel Lowell, Kathleen, and Jorge offered to volunteer prior to reaching out to others.
- Glenn added that the NENC held a special meeting, allowing for all board members to participate. However, their Outreach Committee voted to strictly adhere to the Brown Act.
- Kathleen also recommended combining the Art Faire with the celebration of the NWNC’s 25-year anniversary. This was viewed as a great idea; however, the main focus of this Art Faire will be to bring together artists from throughout the community.

d. Discussion and possible motion for NWNC to spend up to \$1,000 in outreach funds for the purchase of promotional items.

- Janis reported that the NWNC has run out of the desirable emergency whistles, and is low on flashlights and hand sanitizer.
- A few of the desirable items that Janis could order from 4Imprint on behalf of the NWNC include:

Qty	Item	Unit	Price	Set-Up Charge	Freight	Tax	Total
250	Hand Sanitizer	1.09	272.50	45.00	27.10	30.16	374.76
250	Tote Bag	2.65	665.50	55.00	59.69	68.16	845.35
300	Jar Opener	.79	237.00	45.00	16.58	26.79	325.37
250	Pen	1.79	447.50	20.00	14.48	44.41	526.39



250	Sunscreen	2.29	572.50	50.00	24.04	59.14	705.68
250	Sun Stick	2.17	542.50	50.00	25.80	56.29	674.59
250	Foam Football	3.55	887.50	40.00	124.15	88.11	1,139.76
250	Magnet Clip	1.25	312.50	60.00	10.95	35.39	418.84
250	Key Light	1.45	362.50	40.00	14.48	35.24	455.22
Total							<u>5,465.96</u>

- Kathleen recommended increasing this budget item above \$1k; however, that cannot be done in real time as the agenda is set at \$1k.
- The ordering of these products will be on-hold pending the physical inventory and seeing what can be acquired by and used on August 6<sup>th</sup> at the National Night Out. After August 6<sup>th</sup>, Janis will order and stock up on additional items for distribution at the October Art Faire.
- Greg Wood made a motion for Janis to spend up to \$1,000 for outreach items; Joel Lowell seconded this motion, and it passed.
  - Aye (7) Atashian, Edwards, Haddad, Jiménez, Kraft, Lowell, and Wood
  - Ineligible (2) Herzberg and Robinson
  - Absent (2) Babatunde-Bea and Cathcart

- e. Discussion to enlist board member participation and set a date for holding a physical inventory of all NWNC items kept in storage.
- Joel, Jorge, Janis, and Angelica volunteered to perform this inventory of the NWNC’s storage facility at Golden State Storage at 18832 Rayen Street (near Wilbur Avenue). It is estimated that this will take two hours.
  - Jorge would prefer to do this in the morning, before it gets too hot. Angelica could run a few minutes late as she has numerous international calls to Europe in the early morning.
  - Glenn added that the city clerk is only interested in certain things; they are not concerned about NWNC’s inventory of “giveaway items” as mentioned in Agenda item Xii.D.

### XIII. Adjournment

- o Greg Wood made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9.44PM; Joel Lowell seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.